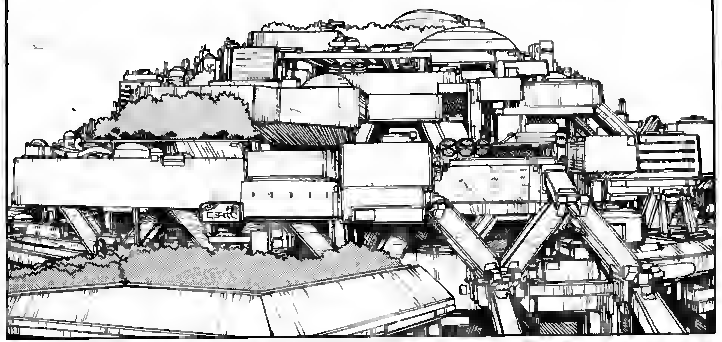
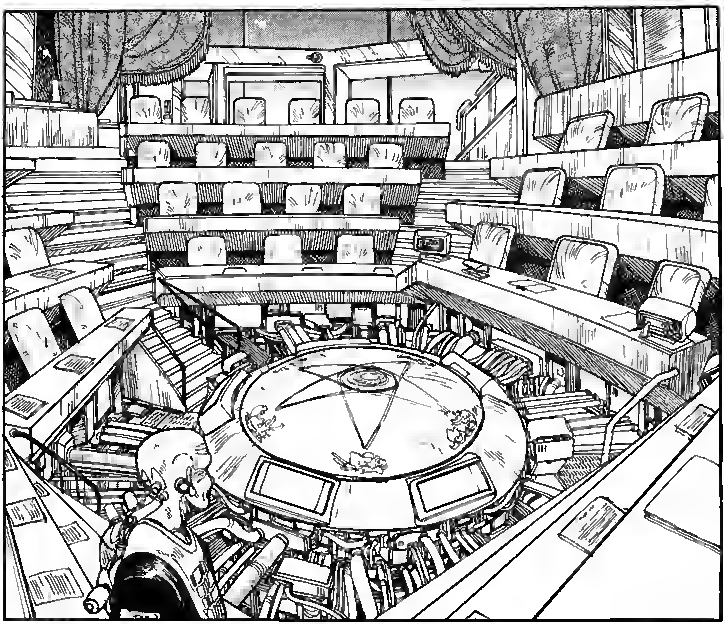
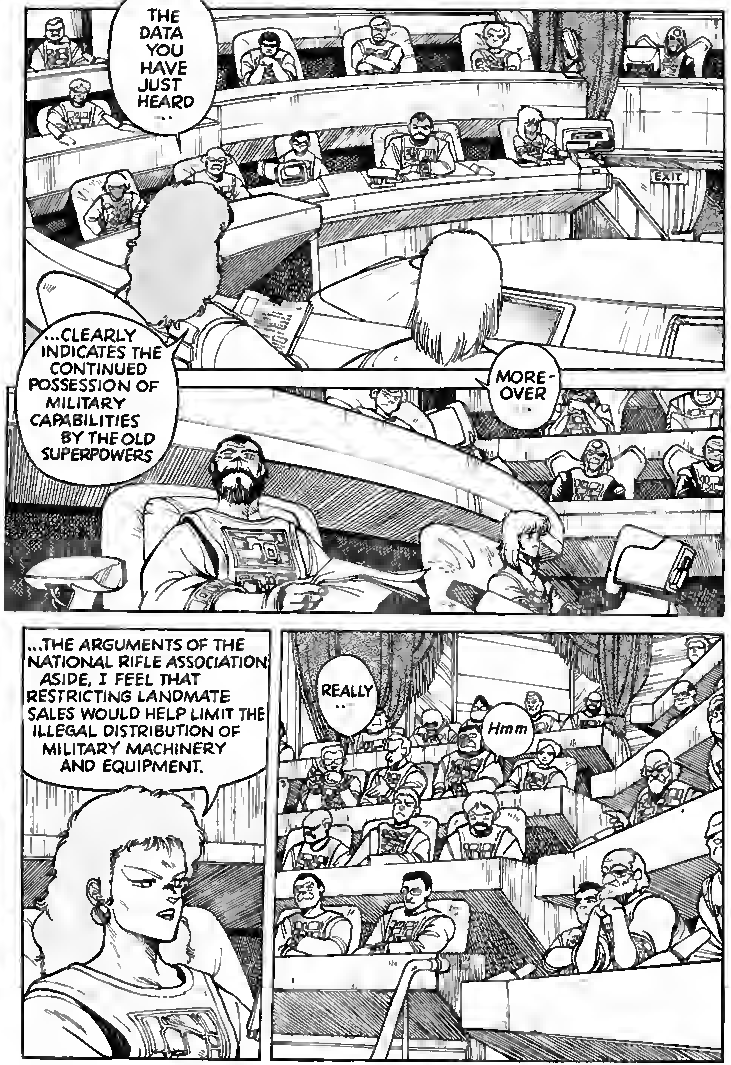
9. DOMINATE THE MIND






THE DATA YOU HAVE JUST HEARD ..
EXIT
...CLEARLY INDICATES THE CONTINUED POSSESSION OF MILITARY CAPABILITIES BY THE OLD SUPERPOWERS
MORE-OVER ..
...THE ARGUMENTS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION ASIDE, I FEEL THAT RESTRICTING LANDMATE SALES WOULD HELP LIMIT THE ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF MILITARY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.
REALLY ..
Hmm

ARE THERE ANY FURTHER OBJECTIONS TO THE FIRST-PHASE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW ROBOTIC GUN PLATFORMS ?
IF NOT, THE BILL, AS ORIGINALLY ROPOSED ...
...
PASSES.
NEXT?
CONCERNING THE HUMANS THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION ORDERED PLACED UNDER OBSERVATION LAST SESSION...
.. WE HAVE COMPLETED THE RELEVANT DATA ON HUMAN STRESS AND HAVE ARRIVED AT A SOLUTION

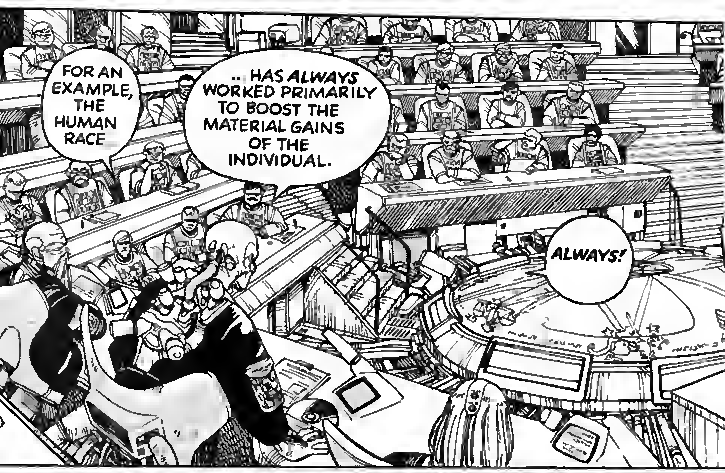
IN A UTOPIAN SOCIETY, HUMAN STRESS CAN FOSTER A NEGATION OF UNDERLYING SOCIAL PHILOSO-PHIES
THE ONLY WORKABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS RIGHT HERE IN MY HAND. WE ASK THE LEGISLATURE TO DEBATE ON THIS PROPOSED LAWAS AN ISSUE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.
WE'D BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THIS ...
I KNEW WE'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT SOMEDAY.
JUST EXACTLY WHAT IS THIS PROPOSAL OF YOURS?
WE CALL IT HOPE*. A PROGRAM FOR THE OPTIMIZATION OF THE HUMAN RACE
JUST AS WE DO OURSELVES, WE MUST REGULATE THE MINDS AND BODIES OF THE HUMAN RACE.
WHAT?!

*HOPE: IN THE MYTH OF PANDORA'S BOX, HOPE WAS THE LAST CREATURE LEFT IN THE BOX AFTER ALL THE ILLS OF THE WORLD HAD ALREADY ESCAPED

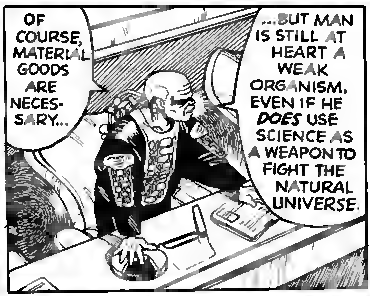
GEE-ZUZ! THIS IS COMPLETELY WORN OUT!
YOU REALLY SHOULD GET SOME STRESS MEASUREMENTS DONE AND CHECK IT OUT FOR METAL FATIGUE. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
EXPENSIVE, I'LL BET..?
WELL, YOU KNOW TESTS LIKE THAT REAL MONEY-EATERS
THIS THING'S A MACHINE, RIGHT?
WE MAY BE ABLE TO COPY THE HUMAN BODY, BUT WE STILL CAN'T MATCH HUMAN BIOLOGY.
EVEN WITH CYBORGS?
MAYBE... OF COURSE, IT'S A DIFFERENT DESIGN PHILOSOPHY, SO I CAN'T REALLY SAY. BUT
MAINTENANCE DETERMINES PERFORMANCE-- THAT MUCH IS THE SAME YOU BUY SAFETY IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'RE WILLING TO SPEND
GUESS I'LL SKIP THE TESTS ...
JUST CHANGE THE PARTS, OKAY?

BRIAREOS-H
WHAT A GOOD-LOOKIN' GUY! WISH I HAD MY NOSE AND CHEEKS BACK, THOUGH...
STOP YOUR BLATHERING AND TRY BLINKING!
VZZZT
KCHIK
COME ON! USE 'EM!
CHIK CHIK CHIK CHIK
I FEEL LIKE A TOY... HEH, HEH...
KCHI-CHK CHIKK
HEY...! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
I CAN'T WINK!
YOU DON'T NEED TO!
THOSE BIONIC EYES ARE THE WAY TO GO, eh? NEVER GET CLOUDY...YOUR OLD EYES WERE ALL SCRATCHED TO HELL, SO BETTER SAY THANK YOU! I PUT IN RESIN PLATE REINFORCEMENTS, TOO..

A THOUSAND THANK-YOUS, Oh WISE ONE..!
HEH. THE REAL FUN'S STILL TO COME.
Huh?
YOUR RIGHT ARM!
THE NERVOUS SYSTEM MODS FOR YOUR ONBOARD WEAPONRY ARE A JOB FOR THE MECH TEAM!
NONE A'MY DAMN BUSINESS
ARE YOU INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF WAR..?
CAN'T FIGHT WHEN I'M SO HEAVY.. ANYWAY, I'M A COWARD
MECH LINKAGES INTO A NERVOUS SYSTEM ARE ALWAYS TOO UNSTABLE..
Hmph!
WHY FIGHT AT ALL, THEN? FOR YOUR COUNTRY? JUSTICE? SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
BAD FOR MY IMAGE ...
NO, IT'S NOT FOR ANYTHING STUPID LIKE THAT.
WHCHAK
I SUPPOSE NO ONE CARES WHAT I THINK, BUT I STILL DON'T APPROVE.
ALL THAT MECH STUFF'S TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE BIO-SYSTEMS ... AWKWARD!
Uh..I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE TO OIL ME...?
THAT'S MY JOB.


FOR AN EXAMPLE, THE HUMAN RACE
... HAS ALWAYS WORKED PRIMARILY TO BOOST THE MATERIAL GAINS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
ALWAYS!

THEY'VE MADE AN AESTHETIC OF CONSUMPTION, AND SATISFIED COUNTLESS MATERIAL WANTS...

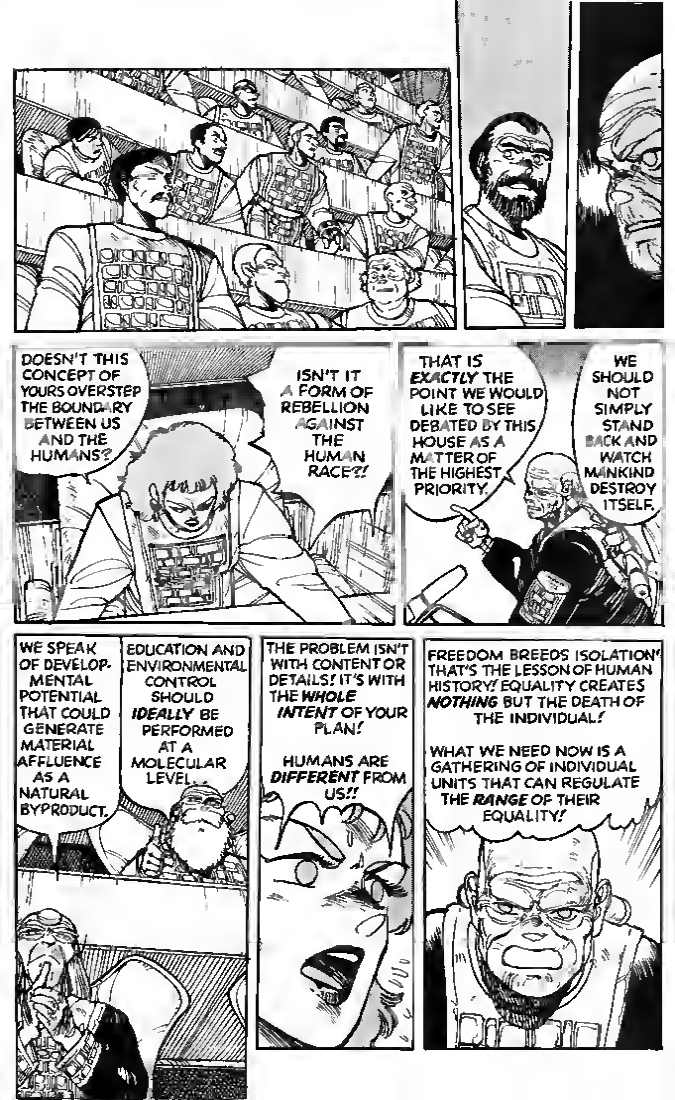

OF COURSE, MATERIAL GOODS ARE NECESSARY...
...BUT MAN IS STILL AT HEART A WEAK ORGANISM, EVEN IF HE DOES USE SCIENCE AS A WEAPON TO FIGHT THE NATURAL UNIVERSE.

HE CAN REALLY ONLY FUNCTION WHEN HE'S CREATED AN ENTIRE SOCIETY
BUT MATERIAL AFFLUENCE ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION. IT INVITES ISOLATION AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE GROUP.
AND FURTHER-MORE . . .

...AS THE AMOUNT OF LABOR AND ENERGY CONSUMED BY THE INDIVIDUAL HAS RISEN, MAN HAS FORGOTTEN TO PRESERVE ANY KIND OF BALANCE WITH NATURE.
I DO NOT EXAGGERATE--THIS PROCESS IS ALREADY POSING A MAJOR THREAT!
BEEP
MOREOVER, THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES* NOW AT OUR DISPOSAL ARE INADEQUATE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE!
YES, MA'AM?
NEWS BLACK-OUT.
YES, MA'AM!
COLONEL!
SEAL OFF THE LEGISLATIVE BLOCK. DISARM THE COUNCIL'S BODY-GUARDS.
BUT DON'T TAKE ANY DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE COUNCIL ITSELF.
...WE MUST FIRST ELIMINATE OR CORRECT CRIMINAL THINKING.
YES, MA'AM!
BUT IF WE DO NOTHING, BEFORE LONG SOCIETY ITSELF WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION!
THE EARTH WILL BECOME AN INCREASINGLY INHOSPITABLE PLACE FOR MANKIND!

*TECHNOLOGY PREDICATED ON THE HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE OF MAN AND NATURE.

WE MUST LOOK AT THE CONCEPT OF APPLYING BIOROID SYSTEMS TO HUMAN BEINGS...
...IN THE SAME LIGHT AS ADMINISTERING EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE TO A DYING PATIENT!
DO NOT MISTAKE OUR PROPOSAL FOR DOMINATION OR BRAINWASHING! WE WILL NOT FORCE IT ON ANYONE!
YET THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID WALKING THE PATH TO COLLAPSE AND DESTRUCTION IS TO CREATE HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE IN A STATE OF DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM, UNIFYING REASON AND EMOTION!
WE NEED INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN FEED BACK INTO THE HARMONY OF THE WHOLE. WE NEED INDIVIDUALS WITH THE ABILITY TO MOLD A UTOPIA AND LIVE IN IT!
SILENCE!!
EVERYONE, PLEASE!


DOESN'T THIS CONCEPT OF YOURS OVERSTEP THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS?
ISN'T IT A FORM OF REBELLION AGAINST THE HUMAN RACE?!
THAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEBATED BY THIS HOUSE AS A MATTER OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.
WE SHOULD NOT SIMPLY STAND BACK AND WATCH MANKIND DESTROY ITSELF.
WE SPEAK OF DEVELOPMENTAL POTENTIAL THAT COULD GENERATE MATERIAL AFFLUENCE AS A NATURAL BYPRODUCT.
EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SHOULD IDEALLY BE PERFORMED AT A MOLECULAR LEVEL.
THE PROBLEM ISN'T WITH CONTENT OR DETAILS! IT'S WITH THE WHOLE INTENT OF YOUR PLAN!
HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT FROM US!!
FREEDOM BREEDS ISOLATION! THAT'S THE LESSON OF HUMAN HISTORY! EQUALITY CREATES NOTHING BUT THE DEATH OF THE INDIVIDUAL!
WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A GATHERING OF INDIVIDUAL UNITS THAT CAN REGULATE THE RANGE OF THEIR EQUALITY!

LISTEN TO ME!! PEOPLE HAVE BECOME TOO MATERIALISTIC! THEIR NETWORKS ARE DISINTEGRATING--THEY'RE FORGETTING EVEN HOW TO NETWORK!
TAKE THE DESIRE TO RETURN TO THE CRADLE TO AN EXTREME, AND ALL YOU GET IS DEATH! WHAT KIND OF A UTOPIA IS THAT!?!
DIRECTOR!
Eh?
??
THIS WHOLE AFFAIR HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR INFORMATION POLLUTION WITHIN THE LEGISLATURE ITSELF.
BEFORE OPENING THE PROPOSAL TO DEBATE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK GAIA TO ANALYZE THE DEFINITION OF "HUMAN"
NO...
...I'LL ARRANGE FOR THAT MYSELF.
CLEARLY, THIS PROBLEM EXCEEDS OUR JURISDICTION. JUST IN CASE, I WOULD LIKE THE ELDERS TO REMAIN "AVAILABLE" FOR THE PRESENT. I ASK FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING, GENTLEMEN.

KASHANG
SO, IN THE END, WE'RE NOTHING BUT TOOLS, Hm?
CONFINEMENT AREA
RRR
....

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